

TELEVISION

'Undercover' unveils a King assassination theory

By Lydia Gibson
USA TODAY

What really happened April 4, 1968, in Memphis?

Today in court, James Earl Ray, convicted in the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., will argue for a new trial. And tonight on Fox's *New York Undercover*, supervising producer Reggie Rock Bythewood spins his own tale of who else may have been in on the killing.

"(Ray) may have pulled the trigger, but I don't think he acted alone," says Bythewood, who wrote tonight's episode (9 ET/PT), which implicates the Federal Bureau of Investigation in a far-reaching

murder conspiracy.

The episode, "Promised Land," is a departure from the show's regular stories of drug raids and corruption in New York.

What begins as a typical shooting of a New York cab driver turns out to be part of a larger crime that involves the FBI. The case leads the show's cops, J.C. Williams (Malik Yoba) and Eddie Torres (Michael DeLorenzo), to Washington, D.C. There, they find a computer disk with files that shed new light on King's assassination.

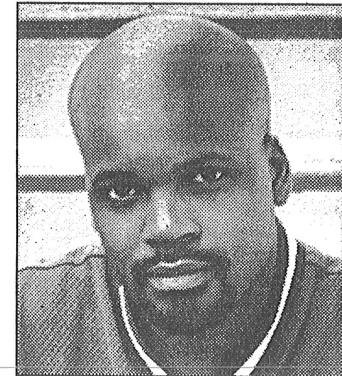
"This show gives us a chance to explore other theories. We are not attempting to say who murdered Dr. King," Bythewood says. "By just raising a question, we are challenging people's perspective."

Ray, now 68, pleaded guilty to King's murder and is serving life in prison. His lawyers will argue today in a Memphis court that the rifle Ray is said to have used to kill King was not the murder weapon.

Bythewood, 31, got his TV start as a writer and story editor on NBC's *Cosby Show* spinoff *A Different World* for two years. He joined *Undercover* in 1994.

His best notices, however, have come for his feature film debut: the screenplay for Spike Lee's critically acclaimed *Get on the Bus*.

"He is a terrific writer because he has a point of view," says *Undercover* executive producer Dick Wolf. "He can also write well and fast — that's a select group."



Bythewood: Points at FBI